

SECRET

SAPC-1850
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16 September 1955

Colonel Loran D. Briggs
Headquarters, Strategic Air Command
Offutt Air Force Base
Omaha, Nebraska

Dear Colonel Briggs:

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You will remember that one of the matters we discussed at our meetings here on 13 September was that of organization and command relationships [redacted]. Following that meeting [redacted]

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[redacted] and I reconsidered at length the plan we had drafted prior to the meeting with you in the light of the suggestions you made on that occasion. We have concluded that we must drastically revise our original plan to take account of your comments and to provide a clean-cut division of functions and clear lines of authority.

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We had originally contemplated that the Base Commander would be responsible only for the management of the facility and for administrative and support functions and that the Commander of the Detachment currently in training would be responsible for the functions of an operations officer. You pointed out that the officer charged with operational responsibilities should have continuity of tenure at the Base and that the Detachment Commander should not be burdened with local operational duties. Accordingly, you suggested that these be assigned to the Commander of the SAC training group. Upon reflection we are convinced that your comment on our proposal was entirely valid but we have concluded that the proper solution is to designate a Base Commander competent to discharge all of the responsibilities, operational as well as administrative, that normally attach to this position. Accordingly, we now plan to designate a competent Air Force Officer of Colonel (or possibly Lieutenant Colonel) rank as Base Commander; the present Acting Base Commander will serve as his Deputy and in that capacity will continue to be responsible for the performance of support functions at the Base.

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There are, I believe, a number of advantages to this arrangement. For one thing it will leave not only the Detachment Commander but also [redacted] free to concentrate on their difficult task of training and preparation. At the same time it provides for continuity in the operation of the Base and in relations with other installations. Finally, it is more appropriate that the Base Commander and his R&D Officer coordinate and monitor test programs in progress than that this be the duty of either the Detachment Commander or the Commander of the training group.

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With respect to the relationship between [redacted] and the Detachment Commander, the directive makes clear that the latter will receive his guidance on all matters relating to the training program from [redacted] and that the line of command to [redacted] with 25X1A
respect to all such matters runs from the Commander, SAC. We will, of course, have a lot of business to do with the Detachment Commander on such matters as finance, administration, accountability for equipment and operational planning, on which we will deal with him directly. This arrangement appears to all of us here to be a sensible and workable one. I enclose a copy of a summary of it. This can, of course, be amended if experience reveals a need for modification.

I want to take this occasion to thank you again for spending a long and tiring day with us on the 13th. I hope it was valuable to you as it certainly was to us. I look forward to seeing you again on or about the 29th. In the meanwhile, my warmest personal regards.

Very sincerely yours,

(sgd) Richard M. Bissell, Jr.

Richard M. Bissell, Jr.
Special Assistant to the Director

Attachment:

SAPC-1617-F

RMB:djm

1-A^Ddressee

2-Pro. Dir Chrono

3-Project Subject

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5-Project Reading

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ORIGINAL DOCUMENT MISSING PAGE(S):

Attachment